

II. Remarks

A. Status of the Claims

Claims 1-128 are canceled without prejudice to filing in a continuation application. Claim 129 is allowed. Claims 130 – 175 are added and essentially reiterate now-canceled Claims 5-8, 13-28, 84-97, 102-103, and 105-114, respectively, to either depend from Claim 129 or to recite the reverse transcriptase comprising SEQ ID NO:2. Applicants submit that no new matter has been introduced by the added claim language.

B. Rejection of Claims under 35 U.S.C. §112, Second Paragraph

Office Action

The Office Action states a rejection of Claims 1, 5-9, 11-28, 84-98, 102-112, 115-125 and 127-128 as indefinite. Office Action at pages 2-4.

Response

Applicants traverse this rejection. However, in order to expedite prosecution of the present application to allowance, Applicants have canceled Claims 1-128. Claim 129 is allowed. Claims 130 – 175 are added and essentially reiterate now-canceled Claims 5-8, 13-28, 84-97, 102-103, and 105-114, respectively, to either depend from Claim 129 or to recite the reverse transcriptase comprising SEQ ID NO:2. Applicants respectfully request that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, be withdrawn.

C. Rejection of Claims under 35 U.S.C. §112, First Paragraph

Office Action

The Office Action states a rejection of Claims 1, 5-9, 11-28, 84-98, 102-112, 115-125 and 127-128 for not limiting the claimed transcriptase mutants structurally and thus failing to meet the written description and enablement requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112. Office Action at pages 4-12.

Response

Applicants traverse this rejection. However, in order to expedite prosecution of the present application to allowance, Applicants have canceled Claims 1-128. Claim 129 is allowed.

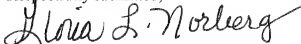
Claims 130 – 175 are added and essentially reiterate now-canceled Claims 5-8, 13-28, 84-97, 102-103, and 105-114, respectively, to either depend from Claim 129 or to recite the reverse transcriptase comprising SEQ ID NO:2. Applicants respectfully request that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, be withdrawn.

D. Conclusion

Applicants believe that the foregoing remarks fully respond to all outstanding matters for this application. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the claimed invention and issuance of a Notice of Allowance for Claims 129-175.

Should there be any questions or comments regarding this document, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' representative, Gloria L. Norberg at 512-721-3654 for discussion.

Respectfully submitted,



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